



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Labor problems and labor administration in the United States during the world war. Part I. Nature and analysis of problem. By Gordon S. Watkins. [University of Illinois, Studies in the social sciences] (Urbana: University of Illinois, 1920. 119 p. \$1.00)

Labor problems and labor administration in the United States during the world war. Part II. The development of war labor administration. By Gordon S. Watkins. [University of Illinois, Studies in the social sciences] (Urbana: University of Illinois, 1920. 121 p. \$1.00)

A heavy load was thrown suddenly on our industrial machine by the war, and the resulting strain tested the strength of the machine and searched out its weaknesses. The symptoms which thus developed hold great interest for the economic diagnostician. It is from the standpoint of seeking to know what is wrong with our industrial organization and to prescribe a remedy if possible that Mr. Watkins has approached the study of labor problems and labor administration during the war. His conclusions are expressed in the final chapter of his second volume, after he has made a record of the disturbances and dislocations of industry that were revealed by the war or that developed during it and after he has catalogued their apparent causes and has told what measures were taken by the government to meet them. He is led to favor "increased activity by the state as a party to industry," which, he says, "does not mean nor express a tendency toward collective ownership and operation of the instruments of production." The trend of Mr. Watkins' thinking is hopeful. He finds promise of better conditions in the activities of the war labor board, the war labor policies board, and the other public agencies which were set up during the war, and he thinks it "unfortunate" that congress has not seen fit to make permanent such "excellent agencies." "It was folly to abandon this new labor administration," he says bluntly. The author believes firmly in organization of workers. "The radical labor movement," he says, "is gaining strength among the unorganized." "If America is to avoid the spread of Bolshevism and other forms of anarchistic radicalism . . . a co-equal voice in the government of industry is a necessary prerequisite." Labor must also have a "just share in the division of the product." He hopes to see these things accomplished by "the new spirit which is being generated in industry."

H. E. G.

The despoilers. Stories of the North Dakota grain fields. By J. Edmund Buttree. (Boston: Christopher publishing house, 1920. 314 p. \$2.00)

Those among the reading public who are interested in the nonpartisan league will take up with pleasurable anticipation this latest book dealing with the league; they will probably lay it down, however, with a feeling of

disappointment. The title indicates the attitude of the writer toward the movement; he is, in fact, opposed to the league, both its principles and its practices. His book arouses a keener interest on that account, for it is to be contrasted with the two books favorable to the league which have appeared within the past year — *The nonpartisan league*, by Herbert E. Gaston, and *The story of the nonpartisan league*, by Charles Edward Russell.

Mr. Buttree has not chosen to make his book a complete story of the nonpartisan league. Rather, he has written a collection of comments on, and criticisms of, various phases of the league. Even for one who is fairly well versed in the subject, this method of procedure makes for some incoherence; one who reads the book with no previous knowledge of the league will fail to gain any adequate conception either of the background of the movement or of its scope and accomplishments.

The book is popular in tone; the author writes in an informal, familiar style which sometimes lacks polish and finish. His greatest sin, however, is perhaps irrelevance, for he frequently yields to the temptation to make this a book of reminiscences and homely philosophizing. In fact, the first half of the book is largely given over to this, the nonpartisan league figuring in the story only indirectly.

The main thesis of the book is a sincere plea addressed to the North Dakota farmer to think clearly for himself, instead of allowing himself to be further misled by the organizers of the nonpartisan league. It is Mr. Buttree's conviction that "they [*the farmers of North Dakota*] are going ahead rampant, allowing a propaganda of hatred of all other classes and sympathy for imaginary evils to arouse their pessimistic emotions and they have ceased to reason" (page 27).

Mr. Buttree has dealt with many of the points on which criticism of the league has been the most severe; and there is no doubt of his sincerity. Nevertheless, the reader cannot escape the conviction that for the opposition to the nonpartisan league there is still lacking an adequate treatment which is at least as satisfactory as Mr. Gaston's or Mr. Russell's treatment of the case for the league.

Minnesota geographic names. By Warren Upham. [Minnesota historical collections, volume xvii] (St. Paul: Minnesota historical society, 1920. 735 p.)

More things are concealed in a name, oftentimes, than the passing observer ever dreams of. The writer was once familiar with a city, which shall be nameless here, wherein a certain official with an instinct for reform undertook, in the interests of supposed logic, a wholesale renaming of the city streets. There ensued such an orgy of street-naming as never was seen before and, let us hope, never will be witnessed again.